

Penybont Rural District.

---

# MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

---

WYNDHAM RANDALL,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

---

BRIDGEND :

R. H. DYER, PRINTER AND STATIONER, QUEEN STREET.

1897.



Penybont Rural District.

---

# MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

---

WYNDHAM RANDALL,


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

---

BRIDGEND :

R. H. DYER, PRINTER AND STATIONER, QUEEN STREET.

1897.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28871364>

# The Penybont Rural District Council.

---

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report for the year 1896, and to lay before you the usual tables of vital statistics.

The district comprises an area of 41,443 acres with a density of population of 0·32 per acre.

The population of the district has been estimated at 13,585, and it is on this estimate that the statistical returns have been constructed.

The year's increase of population has been estimated at 121.

## BIRTHS.

The births registered during the year were 463 ; of these, 265 were males, and 198 females.

At the Asylum there were 7 births, of these two were males and 5 females.

The birth-rate for the district was 34·08 per 1,000 living, as compared with 29·7 the rate of England and Wales. The Asylum birth-rate was 4·34.

Table 1 shows the population, the births, deaths, and excess of births over deaths annually.

With regard to the following table the population in 1890 was somewhat over-estimated, this was rectified in 1891 by the census of that year. But my district then contained Porthcawl and Newton Nottage, which in 1893 were constituted an Urban District.

The population of my present district in 1891 was 13,194.



TABLE I.

Year.	Population	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Deaths.	Excess of Births.
1890	15,000	446	362	Nil.	84
1891	14,664	437	352	"	85
1892	14,664	467	362	"	105
1893	14,824	482	215	"	167
1894	13,299	386	173	"	213
1895	13,464	403	260	"	143
1896	13,585	463	218	"	245

Table II. shows the comparisons of births and deaths in the district in successive years.

TABLE II.

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Deaths from all causes.	Death rate per 1,000.	Zymotic Death rate.	Deaths under 1 Year.	
						Penybont.	England and Wales.
1890	446	29·7	362	24·1	2·0	—	138
1891	437	31·0	352	24·0	3·4	—	150
1892	467	31·8	362	24·7	2·8	124·2	149
1893	482	32·5	215	14·5	1·3	122·4	159
1894	386	29·0	173	13·0	0·8	126·9	137
1895	403	29·9	260	18·3	1·4	166·2	161
1896	463	34·0	218	16·0	1·1	131·7	148
Means	440·5	31·1	277·4	19·2	1·8	134·2	148·8

### DEATHS.

During the year 1896, 218 deaths were registered in the district, of these 112 were males and 106 females. The excess of births over deaths amounted to 245.

The death-rate was equal to 16·0 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 18·3 in 1895.

The rate in England and Wales in 1896 being 17·1.

The deaths from the chief zymotic diseases during the year were 16, the death-rate per 1,000 persons living was 1·1 as compared with 1·4 in 1895. The rate in England and Wales in 1896 being 2·18.

At the County Asylum 108 deaths were registered during the year, of these 61 were males and 47 females. The excess of deaths over births being 101.

The death-rate was 65·2.

The 108 deaths at the Asylum among a population of 1610 are not included in the total deaths on which the mortality rates are based.

### THE PENYBONT DISTRICT.

Area in acres, 41,443.                      Density, 0·32.

   1891.                      1896.  
Population, 13,194,                      13,585 (estimated).

Birth-rate, 34·0 ; death-rate, 16·0 ; zymotic death-rate, 1·1 ; infant death-rate, 131·7 ; phthisis death-rate ·8 ; respiratory death-rate 5·0.

The deaths at all ages were :—

Under one year	...	...	...	61
One year and under five years	...	...	...	26
Five years and under fifteen...	...	...	...	4
Fifteen years and under twenty-five	...	...	...	8
Twenty-five years and under sixty-five	...	...	...	67
Sixty-five years and upwards	...	...	...	52
				<hr/>
				218
				<hr/>

Table III. shows the chief causes of death amongst infants under one year of age.

TABLE III.

Causes of Death.					Deaths under one year.
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	3
Diseases of Digestive System	...	...	...	...	5
Diseases of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	26
Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	13
Ill defined and not specified causes	...	...	...	...	5
Violence	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	<hr/> 61

### ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The 218 deaths from all causes included :—

2		attributed to Scarlet Fever.
2	„	„ Diphtheria.
1	„	„ Membranous Croup.
3	„	„ Enteric Fever.
5	„	„ Whooping Cough.
3	„	„ Diarrhoea.

Table IV. shows the number of deaths registered in each Division during the year. :—

TABLE IV.

Divisions.	Zymotic Diseases.	Parasitic Diseases	Dietetic Diseases.	Constitutional Diseases.	Developmental Diseases.	Local Diseases.	Violence.	Ill-defined, &c.,	Total.	Death-rate per 1,000
NORTHERN ...	3		2	6	1	32	5	1	50	14·4
CENTRAL ...	3			8	3	36	4	1	55	15·9
WESTERN ...	10		4	16	5	73	3	2	113	16·0
Total ...	16		6	30	9	141	12	4	218	16·0



Table of Deaths during the Year 1896, in the Penybont Rural District, Classified  
according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.											
	At all ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.		Scarlatina.	Diphtheria	Membranous Group.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total
NORTHERN DIVISION	50	17	7	0	1	13	12	Under 5 ..... 5 upwards	1					2		7			16	26
CENTRAL DIVISION	55	15	5	3	1	15	16	Under 5 ..... 5 upwards				1		1		4	1	2	12	20
WESTERN DIVISION	113	30	14	1	6	42	20	Under 5 ..... 5 upwards	1	1			5			11		1	25	44
COUNTY ASYLUM	108				5	83	20	Under 5 ..... 5 upwards		1		2			6	26	5	2	27	69
TOTALS ...	326	62	26	4	13	153	48	Under 5 ..... 5 upwards	2	1			5	3		22	1	3	53	90
								..... 5 upwards		1	1	3			22	49	20	10	130	236

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this return relates

Area in Acres, 41,443.      Population (1891), 13,194 estimated to the middle of 1896, 13,585.

Death Rates { General, 16·04 per 1,000 population, estimated to middle of 1896.  
                       { Infant (under one year of age), 131·74 per 1,000 Births Registered.

# Table of Population, Births, and of new Cases of Infectious Sickness,

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1896, in the PENYBONT RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Regis- tered Births.	NEW CASE OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.												IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.					
	Census, 1891.	Esti- mated to middle of 1896.		Smallpox.		Scarlatina.		Diphtheria.		Enteric or Typhoid Fever.		Continued Fever.		Puerperal Fever.		Erysipelas.		Smallpox.			
				Under 5.	5 up- wards.	Under 5.	5 up- wards.	Under 5.	5 up- wards.	Under 5.	5 up- wards.	Under 5.	5 up- wards.	Under 5.	5 up- wards.	Under 5.	5 up- wards.				
NORTHERN DIVISION	...	3,339	3,463	94	...	15	15	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	5 up- wards.	...
CENTRAL DIVISION	...	3,382	3,442	120	...	20	21	...	8	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...
WESTERN DIVISION	...	6,473	6,680	249	...	42	42	2	3	...	7	...	...	1	...	16	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	13,194	13,585	463	...	77	78	3	11	...	11	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1

“Notification of Infectious Diseases” has been compulsory in the district since March, 1891.      The Smallpox Hospital, Bridgend, is the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the district.

During the year 205 cases of infectious diseases were reported to me by Medical Practitioners under the provisions of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

TABLE V.

Table V. shows the number of cases reported under the Notification Act and the deaths during each month of the year 1896.

Months.	Small Pox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Ent'ric Fever.		Cont'd Fever.		Croup.		Erysipelas.		Totals.	
	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.
January ...	...	...	...	2	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	10	
February ...	...	...	...	4	1	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	9	
March...	...	1	...	5	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	0	11	
April ...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	7	
May ...	...	...	...	17	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	18	
June ...	...	...	...	21	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	22	
July ...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	2	0	13	
August ...	...	...	...	17	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	3	0	21	
September ...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	22	
October ...	...	...	...	23	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	0	27	
November ...	...	...	2	17	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	4	3	23	
December ...	...	...	...	17	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	21	
Year 1896	...	1	2	155	2	14	3	12	...	3	1	...	22	8	204	

In addition to the above there was 1 case of Puerperal Fever notified in July.

Also 1 death from Whooping Cough in March, 2 in July, 1 in August, and 1 in September.

Also 1 death from Diarrhœa in June, 1 in August and 1 in September.



TABLE VI.

Shows the distribution of Infectious Diseases and the deaths in each division :—

LOCALITIES.	Variola.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.		Cont'd Fever.		Puerper'l Fever.		Erysipelas.	
	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.
Northern	...	...	1	30	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	2
Central	...	1	...	41	1	8	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	2
Western	...	...	1	84	1	5	2	7	...	...	...	1	...	16
TOTALS ...	...	1	2	155	2	14	3	11	...	3	...	1	...	20

In addition to the above there were five deaths from Whooping Cough, a disease which is not notified.

Three from Diarrhoea.

And one death from Membranous Croup not notified.

### SMALL POX.

One case of Small Pox was notified from the County Asylum the case was immediately removed to the Small Pox Hospital at Bridgend, and a probable serious outbreak was averted by prompt notification and removal.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Two deaths from Scarlet Fever were registered, one death being recorded in the previous year.

The number of cases notified were 155, as compared with 41 in 1895, and 22 in 1894.

The distribution of the deaths and cases in the district as to the period of the year and as to locality will be seen in tables V. and VI.

On an outbreak of Scarlet Fever being notified, the masters of schools in the locality are communicated with, and directed not to admit any members of the infected households for a period of two months.

The parents were advised as to strict isolation for two months, and as to disinfection of persons and clothing, but such precautions were comparatively useless, this, I trust, will be remedied when removal to an Isolation Hospital can be carried out.

### **DIPHTHERIA.**

Two deaths were attributed to Diphtheria, and one in 1895.

The number of cases notified was 14 as compared with 16 in 1895, and 7 in 1894.

Four of these cases were part of the outbreak at Pencoed last year, and were fully considered in my Annual Report for 1895.

The other 10 were isolated cases and associated with local sanitary defects rather than with school life.

### **MEMBRANOUS CROUP.**

There was one death from Membranous Croup as compared with 3 in 1895.

No case was notified.

One case was notified in 1895, and 2 the year before.

### **ENTERIC FEVER.**

Three deaths from Enteric fever were registered, as compared with 4 in 1895, and 6 in 1894.

Eleven cases were notified as compared with 19 in 1895 and 35 in 1894.

Three cases at South Cornelly were traced, undoubtedly, to drinking polluted well-water.

The other cases, generally, may be said to be associated with defective local sanitary conditions, such as open or untrapped drains, etc.

### **CONTINUED FEVER.**

Three cases were notified as compared with 1 in 1895.



## PUERPERAL FEVER.

One case was notified. This was due to auto-genetic causes.

## ERYSIPELAS.

No deaths. Twenty cases were notified, as compared with 10 in 1895 and 22 in 1894.

## CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

The National School, Eweny, was closed 22nd of September, and re-opened 23rd November. There were a number of cases of Scarlet Fever, none of them notified, there being no Medical Man in attendance. I advised my Authority that some means should be adopted of acquainting people with the law that parents and guardians should notify infectious disease, either by prosecuting some as an example, or by distributing leaflets.

Another unnotified case occurred in November; ignorance of the Law was the excuse given.

The National school, Lalestone, was closed 9th November, and re-opened 11th January, 1897. The master's child had Scarlet Fever. Instructions were given as to the strict isolation of the family and the disinfection of the person and clothing of the patient. The house also was disinfected. No further case occurred.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS.

Some improvement has taken place in the general condition of the district during the year, it is still far from being in a satisfactory state.

ABERKENFIG AND TONDU.—These two villages have not improved, they still are filthy, undrained and with defective house accommodation. The description I gave of them in my report for last year leaves little to be added.

The privies have not been re-constructed. Surface slops and refuse are thrown anywhere so that the whole area is polluted. The brook that passes between these two villages serves the function of a main sewer and receives a considerable part of the excrement and other refuse which is either thrown into or eventually gains access to it. In one place the brook is polluted by the

drainage of numerous privies and by two drains containing sewage. It is also polluted by the drainage of a stable, and privy, and a culvert, which acts a sewer for about 100 dwellings, opens directly into it at this spot.

Needless to say diphtheritic throats were suffered from in an adjacent house.

I endorse fully the remarks of the County Medical Officer in his Quarterly Report read in December 1896, that "a system of sewerage, drainage, and properly flushed W.C.'s is sorely needed at Aberkenfig and Tondy."

The scheme for augmenting the water supply remains in abeyance. The slaughter-houses are unsatisfactory and unregistered. They are ill-placed, ill-constructed, and badly kept.

A public abattoir is much needed.

Daily scavenging is necessary.

BRYNCOCH AND BRYNCETHIN.—Several dilapidated dwellings should be closed.

MORSE'S ROW, BRYNCOCH.—Filthy, wet back-yard, unpaved, no surface drainage. Slops and refuse thrown on its surface.

Dirty privies with large cess-pools seldom cleaned out. At the time of my visit a flagstone covering the opening of the cess-pool had fallen in, and children were playing around the opening, risking illness or death. This row was reported unfit for occupation by me in 1886, also by the late Mr. SPEAR, Local Government Board Inspector, in 1887.

Nothing effective has been carried out since.

The Water supply at Bryncoch is still deficient.

An agreement with a Water Company for a water supply has practically been arrived at.

RIVER ROW, BRYNMENIN.—Of eight houses in this Row only two have water laid on. The cess-pit closets are dirty and dilapidated.

COITY AND HENDRE.—Three old cottages, which have been closed, have been rebuilt.

Two new houses built.

Six houses repaired.

Application has been made to the Local Government Board for leave to borrow £1,000 for Coity and Hendre water supply.

EWENNY.—The water supply here is still deficient, although a Company's water mains pass through one end of the village.

PENCOED.—The condition of Pencoed is still unsatisfactory as regards both drainage and water supply.

Fæcal matter is stored in cess-pits in most cases below the level of the ground, and the water supply is derived from wells dry-steined and by reason of their surroundings liable to dangerous pollution. The County Medical Officer "unhesitatingly condemns one and all of them."

Several of them have been condemned by the County Analyst.

The County Medical Officer writes, "the question of providing supplies of pure water for these localities should receive the serious and immediate consideration of the Council."

A scheme of sewerage for Pencoed and Penprisg; plans, details, specification, and estimates were prepared. A resolution to this effect was passed at one meeting of the Council and rescinded at the next.

It was resolved at one meeting of the Council to serve notices to close several of these wells. This resolution was rescinded at the next meeting. Some of these well-waters were afterwards examined by another Analyst with satisfactory results, but I must point out that chemical analysis cannot solely be relied upon as an index of the purity or otherwise of a water, and that one must not conclude because a water is at one time chemically pure, that it is a safe and wholesome drinking water. If chemical analysis indicates that a water is or has been contaminated by animal organic matter in the presence of such surroundings as exist here, the Medical Officer of Health is justified in concluding that the water is not a safe one for drinking purposes.

In fact, to quote the words of Dr. Buchanan, the late Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, "we must go beyond the laboratory for evidence of any drinking water being free from dangerous organic pollutions.

Unless the chemist is well acquainted with the origin and liability to pollution of the water he is examining, he is not justified in speaking of a water as safe or wholesome, if it contain any trace whatever of organic matter; hardly, indeed, even if it contain absolutely none of such matter appreciable by his very delicate methods. The chemist, in brief, can tell us of impurity and hazard, but not of purity and safety.



Urine and house-slops drain into the water course; this is often most offensive, and I have held it to be the means of conveying the poison of Typhoid Fever. The drains are often untrapped and defective.

PWLLANDRAS, CAEBRYN TERRACE.—A case of Enteric Fever in April, 1896.

A death from Enteric Fever in 1895.

A case of Diphtheria in 1894.

The Water supply from a Water Company had been refused, although their mains were laid in the road.

SOUTHERNDOWN AND ST. BRIDES MAJOR.—The roofs of several old cottages have been thatched, but no rain-shutes provided.

Water supply, rain-water collected in cisterns and some wells.

Great scarcity in dry weather, when water has to be carried for miles.

Nothing further has been done towards providing an adequate water supply for these two villages.

WICK.—No drainage. Farm-yards, stables and pig-styes all drain out into the main road. Objectionable, dirty privies. Pig-styes too near dwellings and road.

Court y Mynach Farm is as unblushingly filthy as ever. A new drain has been dug to bring manure liquid nearer to the road than it was before.

A great deal of over-crowding exists. There are several inhabited dwellings unfit for occupation.

## IMPROVEMENTS.

These are few.

1. Thirty new houses built. Twenty in course of erection.
2. Eight houses closed, unfit for occupation. Twelve satisfactorily repaired.
3. Five public wells and two private wells protected from contamination.
4. Drainage and closets re-constructed at Pencoed Board School. Flushing still deficient.
5. Coychurch water-supply has been protected, and pump affixed at a cost of £15.

6. Three hundred houses inspected (house to house).
7. Four hundred notices to abate nuisances. Nearly all complied with.
8. Four cases were taken before the magistrates. One conviction. Two had to pay costs. And one dismissed.

### REQUIREMENTS.

1. The Sewerage of Aberkenfig, Tondy, Pencoed. Improved drainage of Wick and Coychurch.
2. Improved water supplies for Brynmenin, Pwllandros, Tondy and Aberkenfig, Penyfai, Kenfig Hill, Pyle, North Cornelly, South Cornelly, Cefn Cribbwr, Coity and Hendre, Pencoed, Penprisg, Ewenny, St. Brides Major, Southerndown, and Bryncoch.
3. Provision for isolation accommodation and disinfection.
4. The desirability of employing competent persons to carry out the disinfection of dwellings, bedding and clothing, drains and privies.
5. The alteration or re-construction of all privies in the district not fulfilling the requirements of the Bye-laws.
6. A public abattoir, and daily scavenging at Tondy and Aberkenfig.
7. The repair of all dilapidated dwellings or their closure.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

**WYNDHAM RANDALL,**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

BRIDGEND,

24th March, 1897.



## Supplementary Table for Annual Reports.

Rural Sanitary District of Penybont.

Medical Officer of Health, WYNDHAM RANDALL.

Date of First Appointment, 1885.

Date of Last Appointment, 1897. Present Salary, £75.

Term of Appointment, Annual.

Special Reports presented during 1896—Aberkenfig.

WATER SUPPLY.—Any extension or change, 1896? 8 wells protected from pollution.

Portions of District inadequately supplied? Bryncoch, Coity, St. Brides Major, Southerndown, Pencoed, Aberkenfig, Tondy, Cefn Cribbwr, and Kenfig Hill.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL—Extensions or Improvements during 1896? Drainage and closets reconstructed at Pencoed Board School.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL—Are the Privy Middens, &c., cleansed by Sanitary Staff, by Contractors, or by Tenants? By contract at Aberkenfig and Tondy. Elsewhere by occupiers.

Is the present arrangement satisfactory? No.

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.—

	Number.	Are they Inspected, and, if so, by whom?	General Conditions.
Slaughter Houses ...	10	Inspector ...	Unsatisfactory.
Dairies ... ..	25		

DEATH RETURNS—What corrections (if any) are made for non-residents dying within the District? The County Asylum as separate locality.

Are any Returns obtained of deaths of residents occurring in public Institutions (Workhouses, Hospitals, &c.) outside the District? No.

DEATHS—Please state number of each sex.? Males, 112; females, 106.

BIRTHS—Please state (*a*) Number of each sex? Males, 265 ; females, 198.

(b) Number Illegitimate? About 6.

HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES? None.

### ADOPTIVE ACTS—

(1) Notification Act. Adopted when? 1890.

(2) Public Health Acts Amendment Act. Adopted when?  
Part III., 1894.

State what action has been taken with regard to Closure of Houses unfit for habitation. 8 houses closed.

## INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Penybont Rural District. Population, 13,585. Mr. Watkin  
Davies, Inspector.

	Foul Condition.	Overcrowding.	Unfit for Habitation.	Cowsheds.	Slaughter-houses.	Ashpits and Privies.	Deposits of Refuse and Manure.	Water Closets.	Defective Traps.	Water Supply.	Pigstyes.	Animals improperly kept.	Totals.	Samples of Water taken for analysis.	Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use.	Lots of infected bedding stored or destroyed.	Schools disinfected after infectious disease.	Prosecutions.
Inspections made ...													500	8	4	11	1	4
Informal Notice served by Inspector	40	1		3	3	30	30	50	1	20	10		208					
Legal Notices served by Authority ...	10	1	20	1	1	40	10	8	10	3			104					
Nuisances abated ...	50	2	20	4	4	90	40	8	60	4	20	10	312					

W. WILLIAMS,

*County Medical Officer.*









